

## The St. Johns Herald

O. E. Overton, Publisher  
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This caps the climax—the newly formed hat trust.

After all, "Should Women Be Allowed to Learn the Alphabet?" Let us consider this matter seriously.

A New York Judge has decided that a wife cannot file her husband's pockets. A like decision against the husbands is unnecessary for obvious reasons.

It is reported that the prune business has been overdone in Santa Clara Valley, California. In that respect the Santa Clara Valley and the average boarding-house are in the same boat.

A farmer is said to have applied for a divorce from his wife on the ground that she cannot split half the amount of wood she boasted she could before their marriage. Such gross deceptions should not be upheld by the courts.

Overburdened people have hitherto looked upon a sea voyage as a sure escape to days of rest; but wireless telegraphy now opens the terrible possibility of daily papers printed upon ocean steamships, and receiving news from both sides. Long ago the apostle spoke of "inventors of evil things." Although wireless telegraphy will have many worthy uses, the Evil Thing would be a good name for a midweek newspaper.

From the time of St. Paul's young man of Troas to the recent death of the gifted son of the Secretary of State, records of fatalities from falling out of upper windows are not uncommon. They aggregate a warning that ought to be heeded against the frequent practice of sitting in an open window when one is sleepy. Even to the sufferer from sleeplessness, the cool night air often brings moments of drowsiness and consequent loss of equilibrium.

It is a common misapprehension among people who know nothing about farming that anybody can be turned into a useful farmer or farm hand at a moment's notice, but any farmer will tell you that "5,000 of the unemployed men of the metropolis" dumped, without experience or aptitude, on a farming section would be as useful and desirable as 5,000 woodchoppers dumped into steel rolling mills or 5,000 plow hands dumped into a cigar factory or 5,000 sailors put to setting type in printing offices.

That baseball is a rest-cure is the thesis plausibly defended by a Western paper, which suggests that the enthusiasts who support it do not do so because, as they affirm, they "like the game." If they liked the game they would want to play it, just as a fisherman wants to fish and not to watch some other fellow. What they really enjoy is the opportunity to relax—to yell, gesticulate, talk nonsense, and act in a way that, if they duplicated the performance on the street, would expose them to suspicion of insanity. Of course, to get away from conventionality and honesty to act out one's emotions does a man good sometimes. Better for him to do it at the expense of a "professional," who is paid to be yelled at, than to stretch his lungs against the peace of his friends or his family.

The increased interest which women of the present day take in public matters is well shown by the number of "Current-Topic Classes" which have come into existence within a few years. The purpose is to gain a reasonable knowledge of the great questions of the day. There may be few members or many, and wide differences of opinion may, and, in fact, usually do, exist within the class; but that does not matter. Once a week, or once in two weeks, the members meet, and a teacher, or leader, presents matters of public interest and importance as clearly and extensively as possible. Afterward questions are asked and answered, and the discussion becomes general. The success of such an association depends much upon the ability of the teacher, who may be some one hired for the purpose, or a member who has enjoyed greater educational advantages and has more leisure than her fellows. It is not necessary that the presentation of matters under discussion be colorless. Quite as good results are often obtained when the leader expresses his or her own convictions. The object is not merely to form an opinion on such evidence as may be presented at the meetings, but to learn what is the prevailing opinion of those who have given the subject most attention and are best qualified to judge. Nevertheless the leader should be fair and capable of seeing both sides of the matter. Current-topic classes are more common in the cities than in the country. It ought to be just the other way, for the towns and small villages offer less variety of entertainment and instruction, and such associations as these may be made a valuable means of intellectual stimulus and diversion. The cost need be little or nothing, for there is hardly a village in the United States so small that it does not harbor at least one man or woman capable of leading such a class, and willing to do it without charge.

It is a singular fact that the only legation buildings owned by the United States Government are those in the capitals of China and Japan. In capitals of other countries Uncle Sam pays rent, although it is believed that he does not save money by the operation. This country would not own its legation real estate in Tokio and Peking, doubtless, had not the sites been presented by Japan and China respectively. Even with the free land to begin with, Congress would not build a home for the American minister to Japan. He was therefore compelled to erect a legation building at his own expense. It was a good investment, however, because for thirty years or more he rented it to his successors at a rate that paid him an excellent rate of interest. Two or three years ago he refused to make

the necessary repairs, and Congress appropriated the money for a new building. The legation building at Peking was erected by the United States Government at a small cost, and since then other inexpensive houses have been put up for offices, but the accommodations have been inconvenient and unnecessarily humble. The late Congress authorized the erection of a legation building at Peking commensurate with the prominent position this country has taken in Chinese affairs. Forty thousand dollars will be spent in acquiring additional ground and laying the foundation for the new building. It is characteristic of American dealings with weak nations that the President has instructed the Peking legation to pay a fair price for the land, although the European governments have simply confiscated the property they want.

Few Americans will dispute Sir Thomas Lipton's statement that the American boy is better able to make his way in the world than the English boy, and that this is partly because he is allowed to shift for himself at an earlier age. This is not the only reason, however. One ascribes the superior powers of the American boy to the blended blood of many races that flows in his veins. Another thinks the American mother and the inspiration of wholesome home training are to be credited with the boy's ambitions. Others believe the climate has something to do with the character of the American boy, by causing earlier maturity, while many mention the superior opportunities for education and for employment existing in the United States. All these causes undoubtedly are at work in producing the self-reliant and manly type of boy admired by Sir Thomas Lipton, though all are by no means of equal importance. The mixture of races has had a beneficial effect, but still more significant is the fact that it is a mixture of the more daring and adventurous elements in each race. It requires courage and a pioneering spirit to seek a home in a new continent. America has been a magnet for individuals of this peculiar temperament from the days of the settlement of Jamestown and Massachusetts Bay to the present hour. It was the hard schooling rather than the mingling of races that created the alert American type of boyhood and manhood. Many of our most successful men have sprung from pure English stock in New England or Virginia, or from German or other blood practically unmixed. The influence of the more stimulating American climate undoubtedly may be seen, but this is a force that requires generations to show its effects. More important than any other single element in producing the "savoir faire" of the American boy is that of opportunity. From the earliest days there was more work to be done in America than the men could do alone. The boy was needed and was expected to work. The conditions were such that the boy neither could nor would stay at home, and "live off" his parents to the extent that English boys do and must under present conditions. The abundant opportunities of the new world naturally evolved a self-reliant type of manhood, alert, adaptable, ingenious, fearless of obstacles or dangers—a type rich in inventive genius rather than in scholarly attainments. The American comes naturally by these qualities, both by birth and by training. In this country the young man is trusted with greater responsibility than he is in Europe. This has given our industries the mobility and aggressiveness which seem so disconcerting to our staid European rivals. Whether this early brilliancy of the American youth foreshadows an earlier loss of grip is a debatable question. It is true that a man past the age of 50 has a poorer chance of employment in the United States than in Europe, but his earlier opportunities may compensate for this. However that may be, the present is the young man's age in this country, and he is more capable of carrying his large responsibilities than the youth of any other country. The old country puts faith in old men; the new country puts faith in young men.

**THE BEAUTIFUL MRS. CALDERON**  
Charming Wife of the Peruvian Minister at Washington.  
Mrs. Calderon, the wife of the Peruvian minister at Washington, is a comparatively recent addition to the diplomatic set. Her husband was appointed to the post less than a year ago, and they came to Washington from Europe, where Minister Calderon had business interests. Mrs. Calderon has seven interesting children, who speak Spanish, French, German and English with ease, and these, together with two nephews, visiting her at present, constitute a crowd of young people of whom she is extremely proud. She is a typically devoted South American mother. The Calderon residence in Washington is on Massachusetts avenue and is one of the most popular gathering places for old and young of the diplomats' families.

**Turkish Babies.**  
The Turkish mother loads her child with amulets as soon as it is born, and a small bit of mud steeped in hot water, prepared by previous charms, is stuck on its forehead.

Love in a cottage is all very well as long as the flour barrel isn't empty.

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## FIVE TIMES PRESIDENT OF THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE



William T. Baker

Forty years ago last March W. T. Baker joined the Chicago Board of Trade, and ever since has lived the strenuous life of an active member of that association. He has done other things as well. He succeeded Lyman J. Gage as president of the World's Columbian Exposition after having been one of its directors for a year and also chairman of the committee on foreign exhibits. He was elected for a second term as president of the fair, but illness compelled his resignation and Mr. Higginbotham succeeded him. He was also vice-president of the Civic Federation. On 'Change his interests have so invariably been on the side of higher prices that there is a legend around the board to the effect that the only property that ever fell after he bought it was the water in Snogumie Falls, in Washington. Mr. Baker has been five times elected president of the Board of Trade, serving in 1890, 1891, 1895, 1893 and 1897, the only man who ever held the office three successive years. He could have had it a fourth year had he consented.

## HUMAN FINGER PRINTS.

There Are Possible Drawbacks to Their Value in Identification.

The constancy of human finger prints has chiefly been discussed in connection with the identification of criminals. Assuming that the evidence of finger prints is to be admissible in criminal proceedings, it will be not only necessary to prove that in the case of the same man the finger prints remain unaltered, but that no two persons have identical finger prints. Where is the evidence of this? There are probably 1,500,000,000 men and women on the earth. Can we suppose that no two of these have identical finger prints? Nor indeed is this all. We may be comparing the finger prints of a living man with those of one who has been dead for years past, and the doctrine of heredity might lead us to expect to find similar finger prints in the case of parents and children and of different children of the same parents. It is, at all events, certain that if this finger print system were once introduced into our courts of justice there would be any amount of wrangling as to whether they were identical or only similar—experts contradicting each other and involving the whole subject in confusion.

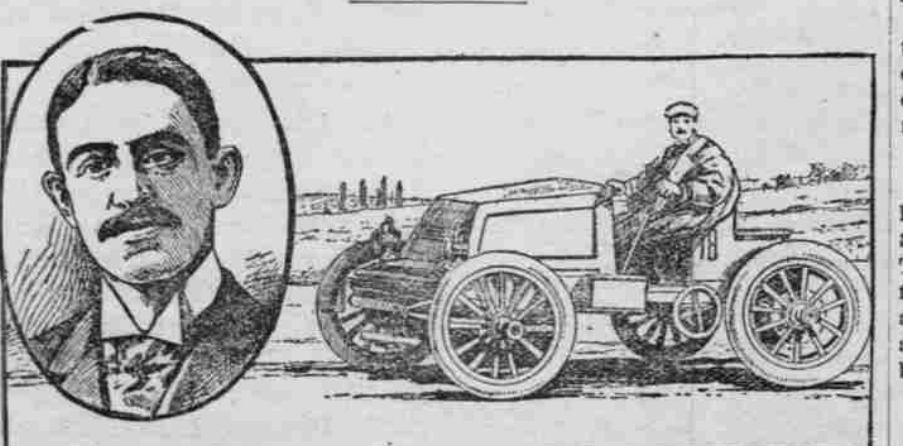
Moreover, professional criminals would probably soon find some mode of altering their finger prints. No doubt if the person who committed a crime—a murder, for example—has left the imprint of his fingers on anything it may prove an important clue, but the same thing may be said of the imprint of his boots or shoes. But a clue is one thing and a proof is another difficulty. In a case in which there are a large number of criminals whose finger prints are collected, the number of these will soon be very large. How long would it take to examine this collection in order to find out whether any of them corresponded accurately with the finger prints of the man who is now accused? The task would, I think, be a hopeless one.

That finger prints may be important in the detection of crime whenever the criminal has left the print of his fingers behind him I do not dispute, but without much stronger evidence than we now possess that no two persons have undistinguishable finger prints such evidence ought never to be permitted to outweigh what appeared to be a tolerably satisfactory alibi.—Knowledge.

**The Plethoric Picnic Pie.**  
That the joyous picnic season does not bring peace and happiness to all alike is clearly shown by a composition written on the subject by a girl in a New York high school.

"May parties will soon be ripe, and the June walk season will follow hard upon. The difference between a May party and a June walk is a simple matter of chronology. Each has its queen of brief authority and its chap-

## WINNER OF THE AUTOMOBILE RACE BETWEEN PARIS AND BERLIN.



Henri Fournier, the winner of the automobile race from Paris to Berlin, has long been known on the continent as the king of the automobilists. He first used a petromin tricycle for his road work. With a machine of 12-horse power he made an average of more than forty miles an hour at a time when automobiles were the merest novelties. Thus it will be seen that he was no new hand in the big race which has just been won at Berlin. Fournier is a veritable spectacle on his machine. He flies along with bulging eyes cast groundward, hair streaming in the wind, and his motor pulling like mad under him. He is so accustomed to these hazardous trips that he is perfectly cool while traveling over a country road at express train speed.

## THIS FOR MOTHERS.

How One Parent Worried Her Child on a Warm Day.

On one of the trains entering New York last Saturday a woman afforded her fellow-passengers an unconscious but powerful object lesson. With the woman was a little girl about 6 years old. The day was warm, and through the open windows the dust drifted in a fine gray cloud. Every passenger was exceedingly uncomfortable, but each forgot his discomfort in the spectacle of that suffering child.

The mother began operations by seating her little daughter beside her with a thump that made the infant's teeth rattle. Then at intervals of one or two minutes during the weary journey she paid the child these maternal attentions: She took off her hat; she smoothed her hair; she put on the hat again; she removed the child's little jacket, and put it back on again; she straightened her collar; she wiped her face with her handkerchief; she removed an imaginary clinder from her eye; she smoothed her hair again; she she took off and retied the ribbon on her hair; she stood her up and smoothed her down; she unfastened the bow at her neck and retied it.

Over and over she followed this program, while the awe-struck passengers looked on. The child accepted the situation with grim endurance. Evidently she had been used to it all of her short life. The world to her was a strange place where mothers exhausted their nervous energy in useless attentions to little girls. Her small face was patetically sad and tired. When the journey's end was reached she rose wearily, was put through it all once more and got languidly off the car.

Among those who watched the scene was a prominent New York specialist in nervous diseases. He turned to the writer and summed up the entire situation in one sentence which has in it a sermon for every American mother. "Each touch," he said grimly, "pushes that child a little nearer to the doors of the sanitarium that will some day open for her."

There were other mothers on the train. Perhaps they took the lesson home.—Harper's Bazar.

**Blue Roses.**  
Flower-faking, or "doping," as it is generally called, is one of the most profitable swindles that can be practiced upon unsuspecting people. During the last two or three years it has become more and more general, and at the present time hundreds of men are at work in different parts of the country transforming cheap plants into apparently valuable specimens, which are eagerly bought by people who have little knowledge of horticulture. One of the most common tricks is the artificial coloring of flowers by means of chemicals.

Numbers of people have bought convolvulus with black blooms at high prices under the belief that it was a very rare plant, and in the same way blue roses and colored hyacinths and lilies have found a ready sale. Those are all produced by chemicals, and as a rule, the flowers wither in a few days.

It has been discovered that camellias grown in earth mixed with resin show fine veins of coral red on their white petals. Earth mixed with iron filings will also color some flowers blue, and pansies take on wonderful hues when their stems are dipped in aniline dyes, and all these methods have been taken advantage of by the flower "dopers." The "rare" flowers are generally sold by hawkers who call from door to door, and who obtain their supplies regularly from the "doper," who has his headquarters near some large town.

**State to Own Utilities.**  
According to authoritative announcements, the government of Canada has decided to nationalize the telegraphs and the telephones of the dominion. The business elements are said to be nearly unanimous in support of this reform. The government counts on an annual surplus of some \$7,000,000, and its income is increasing under the unusual prosperity of the country. It has, therefore, become possible to take the step contemplated for years, but heretofore precluded by lack of available funds. The government already operates some small telegraph lines, and not unsuccessfully. The telephones, if taken over at the same time as the telegraph, will be placed in the hands of the respective municipalities to be managed by them. It is hardly necessary to add that the employees of the companies are anxious to become the servants of the State, knowing, as they do, that from the government they would secure better terms and greater consideration.

Canada is so far following the example of Great Britain in this respect. The telegraph was nationalized in England about thirty years ago, and while there have been complaints of inefficiency, red tape and lack of progressive spirit on the part of the postoffice department, which controls it, there is no agitation in favor of a return to operation by private companies.—Chautauquan.

**Carry Your Dinner in Your Purse.**  
A restaurant for concentrated food is to be started in Paris by an enterprising French chef. The happy diner will enjoy a menu of tabledainties. From the hors d'oeuvres to dessert his entire meal will be presented to him in a few square inches.

In this way a busy man will be able to eat his dinner in a few minutes and carry it about with him in his waistcoat pocket to swallow in spare moments.

**Australian Apples.**  
Parts of Australia are becoming lively rivals to Canada and the United States in the European apple trade. Tasmania, especially, has been found a first-class apple-raising country. There are 8,375 acres in apple orchards there and the product in 1899 was 363,915 bushels.

**Seen Across the Channel.**  
The air in the English channel was so clear one day recently that the dome of Boulogne cathedral, twenty-eight miles away, could be clearly seen from Dover with the naked eye.

The jealousy of a small individual reminds one of a bottle of ginger pop in a state of rebellion.

Flattery is a mask assumed for a purpose.

## VACATION TIME.



## THE SIAMESE TWINS.

Franks that Were the Subject of Much Curiosity a Generation Ago.

To most people nowadays the Siamese twins are a name and nothing more, public knowledge of them ending with the fact that they were joined to each other through life by some kind of natural ligament. But a generation ago these extraordinary freaks were the subject of much curiosity and research. They were born in Siam in 1811 of a Chinese father and a China-Siamese mother, and named Eng, "right," and Chang, "left." Their bodies were joined by a thick fleshy ligament from the lower end of the breastbone of each. The substance was hard, being, in fact, a prolongation of the cartilage of the breastbone. The whole of this cord was covered by the skin. It was remarkably strong, and had no great sensibility, for they allowed themselves to be pulled by a rope fastened to it, without exhibiting uneasiness. The slightest impulse of one to move in any direction was immediately followed by the other, so that they appeared to be influenced



THE SIAMESE TWINS.

by the same wish. This harmony in their movements was a habit, formed by necessity.

They never held consultation as to their movements. Indeed, they seldom spoke to each other, although they conversed constantly with a Siamese lad who was their companion. They always faced in one direction; standing nearly side by side, and were not able, without inconvenience, to face in opposite directions, so that one was always at the right, the other at the left. Although not placed exactly in a parallel line, they were able to run and leap with surprising activity.

They were quite cheerful; appeared intelligent; attending to whatever was presented to them, and readily acknowledging any civility. As a proof of their intelligence, it is stated that in a few days they learned to play draughts well enough to become antagonists of those who were versed in the game. They sometimes played with each other, and it was noticed that when one made a bad move the other would sometimes correct it, and propose that it should be taken back.

They differed in intellectual vigor. The perceptions of one were more acute than those of the other; and there was a corresponding difference in moral qualities. He who appeared most intelligent was somewhat irritable in temper; while the disposition of the other was extremely mild.

They were inclined to sleep about the same time, eat about the same quantity, and perform other acts with great similarity. There was no part of them which had a common perception, except the middle of the connecting cord and a space near it. When a pointed instrument was applied precisely in the middle of the cord it was felt by both; and also for about an inch on each side, beyond which the impression was limited to the individual of the side touched. The pulsations of the hearts of both coincided exactly under ordinary circumstances, and their respirations were, in consequence, simultaneous.

The twins were exhibited in Europe and America a number of times, and ultimately settled in the State of Pennsylvania. They married two sisters and had large families of children, none of whom exhibited any malformation. Chang suffered a paralytic stroke in 1870, and three years later was affected

with a disease of the lungs. He died unexpectedly while his brother was asleep, and Eng died a few hours afterwards.

The Siamese twins attracted great attention during their lifetime, particularly from physiologists and medical men, some of whom thought that the ligament connecting them might have been cut without causing the death of either.

## TOWN BOYS THE "FARMERS."

Far Less Quick and Observant than the Country Children.

Principal Thomas W. Boyce of the First District school, is of the belief that city children are the real "farmers," in the matter of observation. The country cousin has long been scoffed at for his open-mouthed wonder at what to his city-bred playmates are objects of every-day knowledge, and plenty have been the jokes sprung at the expense of the country gawk upon his visits to the city. But now the tables are turned and the city boys and girls may well look out for their laurels as world-wise youngsters.

"We have been reading 'Snow Bound' in our eighth grade recently," said Mr. Boyce, "and it is a matter of surprise and wonderment to note how little the children know about farm life and nature. Some passages which one would think every intelligent boy or girl of 14 or 15 years of age ought to know leave a perfect blank in the minds of the city scholars.

"Take, for instance, the passage, 'The oxen hooked, and lashed their tails.' The scholars could not imagine what 'hooked' meant. They thought that the word hook meant to snatch, to steal, to grab, to swipe, but not one associated the word with the tossing of the horns of the impatient brute. The passage describing the well sweep 'like Pisa's leaning miracle' was so much Greek to them. Although they understood the reference to the leaning tower of Pisa, they knew nothing of the old-fashioned well sweep. The sun-cleaved day, portent of the storm, they had never seen. They expostulated at believing such a thing. 'You cannot look at the sun,' they said. 'It is too bright. It hurts your eyes.'

"Now, I venture to say that there is not a boy in this State who has lived on a farm to whom the sun-cleaved day is not the portent of a storm. They have noticed it from their childhood days. The city children were non-plussed in reading of the gray banks of clouds with the rising of the sun. The sun they see is over the housetops, through some dining room window. It is an interesting study for me to observe how little the city people are taught to observe nature. That is where the country children have the advantage over their city cousins."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

**Natural Curiosity.**  
There are bad bargains that we remember, sometimes with regret and often a little bitter amusement. Says Mrs. E. D. Gillespie, in her "Book of Remembrance":

My father had taken some land in Illinois for a bad debt, and this he had never visited. After he had paid taxes on it for several years, he was asked to sell the tract. He agreed to do it, and named the price, which was the sum he had paid for it, without the taxes. The deeds were scarcely signed when my father found that a city, Peoria, was growing up on the spot. He was naturally disappointed at what seemed the ill luck of the occurrence; but several years after, his annoyance was tinged with amusement. A man came into his office, and asked: "Are you W. J. Duane?" "Yes." "Did you own the site of the city of Peoria?" "Yes." "Did you sell it for \$900?" "Yes."

The man rose from his chair. "Good-by," said he. "I only thought I'd like to look at you."

**At the Summer Hotel.**  
Proprietor—We have only one empty room—in the attic.

The haughty applicant—Think I'd be satisfied with a room in the attic? Proprietor—Well, it is often taken by folks who don't expect to be satisfied with it.—Puck.

**New York's Huge Tax Levy.**  
New York collects in taxes each year almost as much as the city's total wealth of fifty years ago amounted to.